

**Claims**

1. A method of preventing use of an unauthorized copy of a software program comprising the steps of:

5 determining a media type of an optical medium containing the software program; and inhibiting execution of the software program stored on the optical medium if the optical media has media type that indicates that the optical media is copied.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of inhibiting the execution of the software  
10 program comprises preventing execution of selected features of the software program.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of inhibiting the execution of the software program comprises determining a set of features of the software program to execute.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of inhibiting the execution of the software  
15 program comprises preventing execution of the software program.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining a media type comprises inserting the optical medium in a drive of a computer and reviewing a medium-type code  
20 field contained in a mode parameter header of the optical medium.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the drive is a CD-R/W drive.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein a media type indicates that the optical medium is  
25 copied is one of a write-once media type and an eraseable/rewriteable media type.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of executing the software program stored on the optical medium if the step of determining determines the optical medium to be an optical read-only medium.  
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9. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of searching for a file on the optical medium containing the software program prior to determining the media type to ensure that the optical medium contains the software program.

10. A method of authenticating an original optical medium comprising the steps of:  
inserting the optical medium in a CD-R/W drive of a computer; and  
checking a media type of the optical medium.

5 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of searching for a file on the  
optical medium prior to checking the media type.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of checking a media type comprises  
reviewing a medium-type code field contained in a mode parameter header of the optical  
10 medium.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of checking the media type comprises  
verifying that the optical medium has a read-only media type.

15 14. The method of claim 13, wherein a read-only media type is indicative that the optical  
medium is an original version.

15. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of executing a software program  
stored on the optical medium if the optical medium has a read-only media type.

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16. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of checking the media type comprises  
identifying if the media type is one of a write-once media type and an eraseable/rewriteable  
media type.

25 17. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of inhibiting execution of a  
software program stored on the optical medium if the step of checking identifies that the  
media type is one of a write-once media type and an eraseable/rewriteable optical media type.

18. A method of preventing execution of an unauthorized copy of a software program  
30 stored on an optical medium, comprising the steps of:  
determining a media type of the optical medium; and  
executing the software program stored on the optical medium if the optical medium  
has a media type that indicates that the optical medium is an original version.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein a read-only media type indicates that the optical medium is an original version.

20. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of inhibiting execution of the instructions if the optical medium does not have a read-only media type.

21. A computer-readable optical medium containing instructions for preventing use of an unauthorized copy of a software program stored on the optical medium, the instructions comprising the steps of:

10 determining a media type of the optical medium containing the software program; and inhibiting execution of the software program stored on the optical medium if the optical medium has media type that indicates that the optical medium is copied.

22. A computer-readable optical medium containing instructions for implementing the steps of:

15 detecting insertion of the optical medium in a CD-R/W drive of a computer; and checking a media type of the optical medium.

23. A computer-readable optical medium containing instructions for preventing execution of an unauthorized copy of a software program stored on the optical medium, the instructions comprising the steps of:

20 determining a media type of the optical medium; and executing the software program stored on the optical medium if the optical medium has a media type that indicates that the optical medium is an original version.

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24. An electronic device comprising:

memory for storing computer program instructions,

a processor for executing the stored computer program instructions, and

a CD-R/W drive for receiving an optical medium containing a software program, the

30 computer program instructions including instructions for determining the media type of the optical medium and inhibiting execution of the software program stored on the optical medium if the optical medium has media type that indicates that the optical medium is copied.